



Benton County Conservation Board Meeting

Monday, March 10, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Benton County Nature Center 5718 20th Ave Dr, Vinton

Members present: Mike LaGrange, Dan Hill, Becky VanWey, Randy Scheel, and Liaison Tracy Seeman.

Staff present: Shelby Williams, Zach Parmater

Call to order: Called to order at 5:30 PM.

Guests or public participation: No guests.

Consent Agenda (previous minutes, expenditures, revenues): Motion approved by LaGrange seconded by Scheel. All aye, motion passed.

Organizations:

- a. **TriCounty Snowmobile Association:** Discussed no changes of MOU and signed.
- b. **Wildcat Disc Golf Volunteers:** Very busy course use, removed some trees from course, worked on parking lot design, and seasonal staff for Wildcat starting this week.
- c. **Foundation:** Next meeting: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 7:00pm. Will be talking about Wildcat Addition Project and Eco-Extravaganza.
- d. **OCNT Committee:** Next meeting: Monday, April 17, 2023 at 6:00pm.
 - i. **Vinton Trailhead:** Working on deed, and CRP contract. Discussion on cost for the new trailhead development that Parmater and Dirks put together. Requesting funding from neighboring businesses to make it happen.
 - ii. **Frontier Workday:** Dirks has Frontier Co-op doing a workday on April 20th starting at the Garrison trailhead at 8am.
- e. **Winegar Equestrian Volunteers:** No update.

Old business

- a. **City of Atkins - Atkins Roundhouse:** Williams spoke with Mayor Bruce about two options for Atkins Roundhouse Area. Option 1: Conservation is awarded funding through ECICOG which will allow the area to be cleared and replanted per the management plan by the forester. Option 2: It remains as is. Both options, the city would begin lease as is with basic management.
- b. **One-acre parcels:** No update.

Environmental Education: Field Trip season is here and fully booked until the end of May and then the naturalists start camps in June. Eco-Extravaganza is on Saturday, April 22nd from 12pm – 3pm. River Raiders camp is already full.



Law Enforcement: Discussed Medical Response Policy for the staff, new policy will be voted on at next meeting. New security cameras have arrived for the season.

BCCB Properties

a. Wildcat Bluff Recreation Area:

- i. **Funding:** There's over \$208,500 committed to the fundraising goal of \$600,000. Working on outreach on social media as well as starting to reach out to businesses.
- ii. **Hunting Rules:** Discussed options on hunting and what would be allowed on the property/addition, with the Ranger Residence being in the middle.
- iii. **Planting/Management:** Staff burned the pasture areas and Coe college is doing an inventory on part of the property for herps and reptiles.

b. Paha: Donor agreement and deed looked at, with some clarifications needed.

- i. **Grant:** Dirks and Parmater met with the contractor on the work needing to be done to start getting full numbers for the grant.

c. Wells: Rodgers and Nature Center wells were tested because they are public water sources. The Rodgers well to the south (shop well), had one unsafe test, requiring a new test. Looking to getting engineering for the work that will need to be completed. Requesting ARPA assistance.

d. Hannen Shop: Utilities have been located and points for the four corners are being set this week. Contractor to start soon.

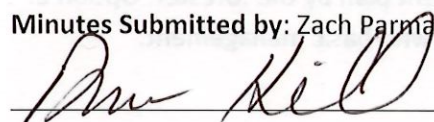
e. Other: No update

Director Updates: Tornadoes hit around us, but avoided the parks, the Generac kept the nature center going well. Registration kiosks and layout of information on them are being completed. Williams will be attending Supervisor's meeting to discuss Wildcat Showerhouse/Dump Station/Camp Host Funding per the APRA committee's suggestions.

Set next regular meeting: Monday, May 8, 2023 at 5:30pm, Wildcat Bluff Recreation Area Shop (3139 57th St Trail, Center Point, IA)

Adjourn: Scheel moved to adjourn at 7:14 pm, seconded by VanWey. All aye, motion passed.

Minutes Submitted by: Zach Parmater



5-8-2023

Approved

Date